

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 010744Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2990

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (ABOUREZK, JAMES)

SUBJ: CODEL ABOUREZK

1. BRIEF, 36-HOUR VISIT TO ABU DHABI MAY 29-30 BY SENATOR ABOUREZK WAS GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL IN SPITE OF SOME CONFUSION ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS. MAIN PURPOSE OF TRIP APPEARED TO BE TO ESTABLISH SENATOR'S CREDENTIALS ON FACE-TO-FACE BASIS FOR HIS IMPECCABLE STAND (FROM ARAB POINT OF VIEW) ON ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE AND TO USE HIS MEETINGS WITH LEADERS FOR PUBLICITY AT HOME. ALTHOUGH SENATOR AND PARTY SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST IN WHAT IS GOING ON IN UAE, HE NEVERTHELESS CAME ACROSS AS GENIAL AND FRIENDLY GUEST IN HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH UAEG OFFICIALS. FOR ITS PART UAEG WAS HAPPY TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE HOSPITALITY TO ONE OF FEW SENATORS WHO DID NOT SIGN LATEST LETTER TO PRESIDENT IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL.

2. SENATOR PAID CALLS ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH MAZRU'I, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AND PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN RAHMA AL-MASOUD, AND WAS RECEIVED FOR ABOUT 40 MINUTES BY SHAIKH ZAYID. RECEPTION FOR SENATOR AND PARTY HOSTED BY CHAMGER OF COMMERCE HAD GOOD TURNOUT OF LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AT MEETINGS WITH MAZRU'I AND MASOUD, SENATOR STATED HIS VIEW THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER REALLY LIFTED A FINGER TO OPPOSE ANYTHING ISRAEL WANTED, AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S REASSESSMENT OF MIDDLE EAST POLICY WAS NOT GOING TO AMOUNT TO MUCH (CAUSING AMBASSADOR, WHO ACCOMPANIED SENATOR ON THESE CALLS, TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM SENATOR'S VIEWS). EASIER TO AGREE WITH
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WAS SENATOR'S ADVICE, WHICH HE GAVE TO ALL HIS INTERLOCUTORS HERE,

THAT IF ARABS WANTED TO CHANGE U.S. POLICY, THEY HAD TO LAUNCH MUCH MORE SKILLFUL AND ENERGETIC PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN IN U.S. TO GET THEIR IDEAS ACROSS TO U.S. PUBLIC.

3. SENATOR'S MEETING WITH SHAIKH ZAYID WAS CORDIAL, THE TWO SPENDING SOME TIME COMPARING NOTES AS TO HOW BEST TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENTS. SHAIKH ZAYID TOLD THE SENATOR THAT HE HAS JUST THIS WEEK ABANDONED TRADITIONAL DAILY "MAJLIS", AND WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC ONLY TWO MORNINGS A WEEK. SUBSEQUENTLY SHAIKH ZAYID LAUNCHED INTO EXTENDED, TYPICALLY ZAYID MONOLOGUE ON NEED FOR UNITED STATES TO BECOME AWARE OF GROWING IMPORTANCE OF ITS INTERESTS IN ARAB WORLD AND FOR THIS TO BE REFLECTED IN ITS ARAB-ISRAEL POLICY. HE STRESSED RESPONSIBILITY OF GREAT POWERS IN BRINGING ABOUT MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION. ZAYID HAS MADE THIS SPEECH MANY TIMES BEFORE AND ON THIS OCCASION WAS IN GOOD FORM. HOWEVER HE SEEMED EITHER UNAWARE OR UNCONCERNED THAT HE WAS PREACHING TO THE ALREADY CONVERTED. SENATOR ABOUREZK KEPT TRYING TO INDICATE HIS AGREEMENT BUT ZAYID WAS UNSTOPPABLE, AND AFTER 40 MINUTES OF THIS GENIAL LECTURING SENATOR POLITELY ROSE TO LEAVE, HAVING FAILED TO GET WORD IN EDGEWISE.

4. ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY UAE NEWS QUOTED SENATOR AS SAYING ZAYID HAD TOLD HIM THAT "THE ARABS ARE PREPARED TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ISRAEL AND RECOGNIZE ITS RIGHT TO EXIST WITHIN RECOGNIZED BOUNDRIES." SHAIKH ZAYID IN FACT SAID NOTHING OF KIND TO SENATOR BUT IT IS INTERESTING--AND PERHAPS REFLECTION THAT ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT HERE HAS BEEN INFLUENCED TO SOME DEGREE BY SADAT'S RECENT STATEMENT IN KUWAIT--THAT MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ALLOWED ZAYID TO BE QUOTED AS HAVING EXPRESSED THIS CAREFUL LIFTING FROM SC RES 242. HIS PAST PUBLIC UTTERANCES ON SUBJECT HAVE RARELY TAKEN SUCH EXPLICIT FORM. ALLEGED QUOTE DID NOT, HOWEVER, APPEAR IN ARABIC PRESS. STERNER

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